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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Chair of the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development. As you embark on the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly that will take place in September 2010, which will consider ways of accelerating progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, I wish to bring to your attention the work of the Commission in this regard. At its forty-second session, in 2009, the Commission considered the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and adopted a comprehensive resolution on this topic (see E/2009/25, resolution 2009/1).

The Commission recognized that the full implementation of the Programme of Action was integrally linked to global efforts to achieve the internationally agreed goals, and it provided guidance on actions to achieve that implementation. In particular, the Commission considered the evidence demonstrating that providing access to family planning was a cost-effective way of reducing maternal mortality and improving child survival. For every dollar spent in family planning, between $2 and $6 can be saved in interventions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of health and education.

The evidence available on this issue is summarized in the first issue of United Nations Population Facts, which can be accessed at www.unpopulation.org. In view of the slow progress made in reducing maternal mortality, particularly in the least developed countries where one in every four married women has an unmet need for family planning, it would be important for the outcome of the high-level plenary

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meeting to reiterate the recommendations made by the Commission regarding the need for Governments to ensure that all women and men, including young people, have information about gaining access to the widest range of safe, effective, affordable, evidence-based and acceptable methods of family planning. Of course, there should also be full recognition that the care of a skilled birth attendant at delivery and the provision of emergency obstetric care when needed are also necessary interventions to avoid maternal mortality and morbidity.

In order to raise awareness about the contribution that universal access to family planning could make to the attainment of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly for the high-level plenary meeting of its sixty-fifth session.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**